



To: All CDBG and HOME Recipients
From: IHFA Community Development Department
Date: 28 February, 2000
Re: ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCEDURES

Notice: FSP-00-02

This notice transmits revised Chapter 4, "Environmental Review Procedures" of the Indiana Housing Finance Authority's (IHFA) grant manual by rescinding the requirement for contact with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for all projects. In its place this notice matches the level of review to the type of project proposed.

There are 3 categories of projects covered by this programmatic review procedure. The first category will include projects for which no coordination is required between the IHFA grant recipient and the FWS. The second category includes projects which appear to have minor impacts but may have environmental concerns that are not readily apparent, such as unique streams, endangered/threatened/rare species, or significant watershed considerations. For these projects a letter will be required from the IHFA grant recipient describing the project and stating that the project falls under programmatic review criteria, but providing the FWS an opportunity to review the project. If the FWS has not provided a written response within 30 days of receipt of the letter, the programmatic review will be considered completed (including endangered species clearance). The third category of projects (i.e. all projects not included in the first two categories) will require normal NEPA correspondence. The FWS will continue to review and respond to these projects within 30 days whenever possible, as is currently done. If FWS cannot respond within the time frame because of project complexity or extenuating circumstances, FWS will notify the project sponsors or their agent verbally within 30 days regarding when the response will be sent. The grant recipient should not assume that the review is complete unless they have received either a letter or verbal confirmation from the FWS. In no event will a consultation involving an applicant be extended for more than 60 days beyond the 90 days provided by regulation without the consent of the applicant, as provided by 50 CFR 402.14(e).

For all project types in Categories 1 and 2, the following standard set of mitigation recommendations and

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endangered species comments will constitute the FWS' programmatic response. These standards are also applicable to Category 3 projects, and will be included in the FWS letter.

Mitigation Recommendations

1. Minimize removal of woody vegetation.
2. Use best available techniques to minimize erosion and soil runoff during construction.
3. Revegetate or otherwise stabilize disturbed soil areas as soon as possible after construction is completed.
4. Minimize disturbance to stream channels, and avoid excavation within stream channels during the fish spawning season (April 1 - June 30).

Endangered Species

Attached is a list of federally endangered and threatened species in Indiana. All projects in Category 1 below are not likely to adversely affect any of these species. Projects in Categories 2 and 3 will be reviewed by the FWS on an individual basis. If the FWS does not provide a response to a category 2 project within 30 days it can be assumed that endangered species clearance has been given.

For Category 1 projects, and Category 2 projects as described above, this precludes the need for further consultation as required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. If, however, new information on endangered species at the site becomes available or if project plans are changed significantly, please contact our office for further consultation.

PROJECT CATEGORIES

Category 1 - Projects for which no coordination is required.

1. All projects which involve only rehabilitation or repairs of existing structures.
2. All new construction entirely on urban non-floodplain sites with previous development, or entirely on tilled agricultural land or pasture, that is not wetland and is not within 50 feet of a stream or lake.
3. All utility line projects that involve construction only along existing urban streets with no impacts to streams, wetlands, or forest.

Category 2 - Projects which require a coordination letter from the grant recipient. The grant recipient's letter will state that the project falls under the programmatic review agreement. Programmatic review applies if the FWS does not respond within 30 days of receipt of the

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coordination letter.

1. All new construction on undeveloped urban land, or on rural land that is not in agricultural production, provided that:
 - a. The site is not within 50 feet of a lake, stream or wetland and;
 - b. The construction disturbance area does not contain forest or steep slopes.
2. All utility line projects entirely on existing, developed road or utility rights-of-way, including crossings of intermittent streams (as indicated by broken blue lines on U.S.G.S. topographic maps), provided that:
 - a. The utility line or access road does not pass through a wetland; and
 - b. Stream channel disturbance is limited to minimum disturbance for excavation of the utility line crossing, with backfill consisting of original material to original grade. Whenever possible, utility line stream crossings should be accomplished by attachment to bridges or by directional drilling.

Category 3 - Projects which will require a written response from the FWS

This category includes all projects not specified in categories 1 and 2, including the following types of projects:

1. Projects which involve new construction on undeveloped land with impacts to forest, wetlands, permanent water bodies, or other wildlife habitat.
2. Projects which involve excavated crossings of perennial (blue-line) streams or rivers by roads or transmission pipelines. Pipelines which are directionally-drilled or attached to existing bridges can be excluded.
3. Projects which involve channel alterations of any streams or rivers other than those listed in #2 (e.g. channel excavation, channel straightening or relocation, bank alterations).
4. Projects which involve alterations of riparian zones within 50 feet of a stream, river or lake.

Information needed for FWS review

For all coordination letters to FWS from grant recipients, the following minimal information is needed for review:

1. Location map showing boundaries of the project site and proposed construction boundaries. The map should be in a form that can be referenced to U.S.G.S. topographic quadrangle maps.

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2. Brief narrative description of the proposed construction.

3. Other graphic displays of the project area and proposed impacts, if available (e.g. plan and profile designs, photographs). Recent aerial photographs are especially useful for projects which we cannot inspect.

If you have any questions regarding the above mentioned changes, please contact the IHFA Environmental Review Officer, Shawn Brock, at (317) 232-7777, or toll-free at (800) 872-0371.

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INDIANA

Federally Listed Species

MAMMALS

Gray bat (E)
(Myotis grisescens)

Indiana bat (E)
(Myotis sodalis)

County Distribution

Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison Counties

Statewide
CRITICAL HABITAT:
Big Wyandotte Cave (Crawford County),
Ray's Cave (Greene County)

BIRDS

Bald eagle (T)
(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)

Least tern (E)
(Sterna antillarum)

County Distribution

Statewide

Gibson County

REPTILES/AMPHIBIANS

Copperbelly watersnake (T)
(Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta)

County Distribution

Kosciusko, St. Joseph, Steuben Counties

MUSSELS

Fat pocketbook pearly
mussel (E)
(Potamilus capax)

County Distribution

Gibson, Knox, Posey Counties

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White cat's paw pearly
mussel (E)
(Epioblasma obliquata
perobliqua)

DeKalb County

Fanshell Mussel (E)
(Cyprogenia stegaria)
(=C. irrorata)

Carroll, Martin, Sullivan, Tippecanoe,
Wabash, White Counties

Clubshell Mussel (E)
(Pleurobema clava)
Counties

Carroll, Dekalb, Kosciusko, Fulton,
Marshall, Pulaski, Tippecanoe, White

MUSSELS (cont.)

County Distribution

Northern riffleshell (E)
(Epioblasma torulosa rangiana)

Dekalb, Pulaski Counties

Cracking pearlymussel (E)
(Hemistena lata)

Knox

Orange-footed pearlymussel (E)
(Plethobasus cooperianus)

Gibson

Pink mucket pearlymussel (E)
(Lampsilis orbiculata) (=P.abrupta)

Posey

Ring pink (E)
(Obovaria retusa)

Fountain, Gibson, Harrison, Knox,
Lawrence, Posey, Sullivan, Tippecanoe,
Vermilion, Vigo, Warren

Rough pigtoe (E)
(Pleurobema plenum)

Martin

Tubercled-blossom pearlymussel (E)
(Epioblasma torulosa torulosa)

Carroll, Fountain, Gibson, Fulton,
Jackson, Knox, Posey, Pulaski, Sullivan
Tippecanoe, Vermilion, Vigo, Warren



White warty-back pearlymussel (E)
(Plethobasis cicatricosus)

Posey, Tippecanoe, Vermilion, Vigo

INVERTEBRATES

Mitchell's satyr (E)
(Neonympha mitchelli)

County Distribution

LaPorte, LaGrange Counties

Karner blue butterfly (E)
(Lycaeides melissa samuelis)

Lake, Porter Counties

PLANTS

Running Buffalo Clover (E)
(Trifolium stoloniferum)

County Distribution

Dearborn, Ohio, Ripley, Switzerland
Counties

Pitcher's thistle (T)
(Cirsium pitcheri)

Lake, Porter Counties

Mead's milkweed (T)
(Asclepias meadii)

Lake County

E - Endangered

T - Threatened

Last updated 12/99

